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A. L. A. READING COURSES

Why Courses Are Needed

We believe that in every community there are men and women who would like to undertake definite courses of reading; that the individual who goes to the library for advice on a course of reading frequently fails to get all the advice and help he wants, because the assistant is not an expert on the subject in which he is interested, or because she cannot give sufficient time to any one inquirer to do the subject justice. Yet we believe that persons making inquiries of this sort deserve more help than any other class of readers.

To enable even the smallest library and the least experienced assistant to give the best advice, we have begun the publication of a series of reading courses. *Please note that these are more than reading lists.*

It is our plan to have each of the courses in this series prepared by an expert. When you put a copy of the course into the hands of an inquirer in your library, you will know that you are giving that inquirer the very best advice obtainable anywhere. Before publication all courses will be edited from the library standpoint.

The courses will be short, limited usually to six or eight books when such limitation is feasible. They will be revised from time to time, but only when new publications in the field make revision necessary. Each course will have an attractive cover design and will be well printed on good paper.

How to Use the Courses

Keep a supply at the delivery and reference desks, and instruct the assistants to give them out to persons who ask for information on the subjects covered and to others who may be interested. Have the courses reprinted in full in the newspapers. Advertise the fact that the library has these courses and will gladly give them to anyone on request.

Mail copies to persons in your community who are known to be interested in the subjects (preferably to only a few at

a time unless you have many copies of the books). Distribute copies at meetings where one of the reading course subjects is being discussed. Put copies into the hands of students who are interested in the vocational and other subjects covered.

It is thought that the above uses will be as appropriate for university, college and high school libraries as for public libraries. The distribution of the courses is in itself a service, even if the books can not always be supplied by the distributing agency.

Some library commission secretaries have already indicated that they expect to use the courses as publicity for traveling library collections as well as for the guidance of readers. It is hoped also that the courses will be acceptable to bookstores, university extension departments and to trade and professional organizations.

What better thing can you hope to do for your community than to help ambitious men and women along the way of a continuing self-education?

Now Ready

A. L. A. Reading Courses on Accounting, by a professor of accounting in a large university. Eight pages, convenient size for mailing in a number 10 envelope; recommends 8 books as essential. Prices: 8 for 25c (in stamps); 100 for \$1.75; 1000 for \$16.00.

A. L. A. Reading Courses on Journalism, by the director of the school of journalism in a university. Four pages, uniform in size with accounting but on different colored paper; recommends 10 books. Prices: 12 for 25c (in stamps); 100 for \$1.00; 1000 for \$9.00.

Similar courses on other subjects will follow.

Herbert Baillie, librarian of the Public Library, Wellington, New Zealand, writes that his daughter hopes to attend the Detroit conference of the A.L.A. She is coming to America "to be a student for two years at the Cleveland Public Library." Mr. Baillie attended the A.L.A. Conference in 1908.